

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

www.westerleenews.com

August 2021



Editor: Pam Jarrell

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

It's been 18 months since COVID-19 impacted our daily routines, livelihoods, future plans and families. Fast forward to today, I think we can all say that we've all had to demonstrate great resilience and reflect on what's most important to us. I hope this finds you and your loved ones doing well and full of hope for the remainder of 2021.

As an Association, we have been interacting virtually and looking to support community members where we can. We had a successful virtual Annual Meeting that was attended by 50+ and we are slowly seeking to offer safe and in-person events. We are delighted to offer an adapted annual picnic with COVID precautions, see the flyer in this newsletter and/or check www.westerleenews.com. Community-building is a Board priority and we'd like to continue the tradition even if it means a different format. We hope you will participate as you are able and comfortable.

During our Spring Annual meeting, a community member inquired about updating the Westerlee directory that existed many years ago and was distributed to all residents. This directory included contact information for each household. It was a good idea but as a Board, we discussed it and have decided not to pursue the directory. The management of resident information, as well as the current culture around privacy issues, even sharing phone contact information makes this a task that is often not viewed positively. However, we would like residents to get to know one another through our events or casual interaction and hope that you all take the initiative to do that. I know that COVID has gotten me outside more and it has been a pleasure meeting and getting to know neighbors!

I wish you all good things as we continue forward hoping for fewer COVID restrictions. Please communicate with us as a Board with your ideas and ways we can add value to the Westerlee experience.

Be Well,

John Fox



Did you know that all newsletters can be found on the website?
Just visit:
westerleenews.com

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: John Fox 410.756.0543

Vice President: Wanda Richardson

Secretary: Fred Hickok

Treasurer: Rizwan Mahmoodi, send checks to: 2126 Fernglen Way

Directors: Chris Goatee, John Herron, Pam Jarrell

Jacquiline Johnson, Joe Reid, Michele Snowden

Past President: Klaus Philipsen

Contact the board by emailing westerleehoa@gmail.com

You're Invited

Neighborhood Get-Together

Date: September 18, from 3-5 pm
Rain: Sept 25th

See attached flyer.

You're Invited

Dumpster Day

Date: October 30, from 8am-12pm
Nuwood Drive

See attached flyer.

Special Offer



Recycle Bins
\$20

See attached flyer.

Join us on Social Media!

Become a member of Nextdoor, the online communication platform tailored to our community. Go to: <https://westerlee.nextdoor.com>.

It's a great way to connect with neighbors for everything from finding a babysitter to selling a sofa. You can ask neighbors if their street has a power outage or let others know about up-coming local events.

Participation requires an invitation. Please e-mail Klaus Philipsen a request to: kphilipsen@archplan.com



Westerlee Community Association Treasurers Report for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$15,641.47 |
| Income: | |
| Other Income | .81 |
| Dues | 3,580.00 |
| Total Income | \$3,580.81 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Newsletter/Flyers | 179.56 |
| Office Supplies | 87.38 |
| Website | 266.92 |
| Yard Sale | 88.19 |
| Total expenses: | \$622.05 |
| Ending Balance: | \$18,600.23 |

Westerlee Board News

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (Abridged) Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present were officers John Fox (President), Wanda Richardson (Vice President), Rizwan Mahmoodi (Treasurer), Fred Hickok (Secretary) and board members Chris Goatee, John Herron, Pam Jarrell, Jacqui Johnson and Klaus Philipsen (Past President).

Welcome: Approximately 23 households were represented.

Presentation by Margaret Stokes, Administrative Assistant to County Councilperson Tom Quirk: She said that Tom sends his regards but is presently on a budget hearing. She said that he will not run for re-election or any other public office next year. She mentioned that Tom approves a \$600,000 upgrade for Western Hills Community Park at North Rolling and Crosby but opposes building an enclosure at the Westview Neighborhood Park at Chesworth and Gilston. She relayed the County Council's opposition to a proposal for Chick-fil-A and Wawa facilities to occupy the spaces of the closed IHOP and Bennigans restaurants at Security Square Mall due to the nearby location of a Wawa store at North Rolling Road and Belmont.

In response to a resident who claimed that sections of Chantilla and its sidewalks need repair, Margaret said that she will contact the appropriate Public Works personnel. She added that the county needs 6 more code enforcers to respond to complaints. Klaus mentioned two stalled proposed projects – a walking trail from the Gateway Apartments to Rolling Road and a plan to change the traffic pattern on part of North Rolling Road to a 3-lane configuration similar to that on a section of Edmondson Avenue. Margaret said that she would try to get action on the trail. Rizwan brought up the possibility of adding some street lights and Margaret advised to contact the County BGE liaison. A couple of residents writing on the chat feature expressed strong opposition to any street lights.

Presentation by Baltimore County Police Officer Alisha Helphenstine of the Woodlawn Community Outreach Team: She said that Orlando Lilly, their new captain, is very willing to arrange a virtual meeting and a community walk for Westerlee. She recommended going to the www.4410online.com site for community postings, information on community relations and chats. She warned about leaving your car in the driveway to warm up in the morning due to opportunist car thieves. She noted that drivers have been parking illegally in No Parking spots at sports fields.

She stated that vehicles over 10,000 pounds should not be driving through Westerlee and that residents could report license tag numbers to her. In response to a resident's question about more frequent police cars showing up at the Westerlee Apartments, she said that she would look into that. She gave her contact information of ahelphenstine@baltimorecountymd.gov and 410-887-4714.

Treasurer's Report: Rizwan gave the following summary for the year 2020:

Beginning Balance: \$13,145.23; **Income:** \$5,176.59; **Expenditures:** \$2,680.35;

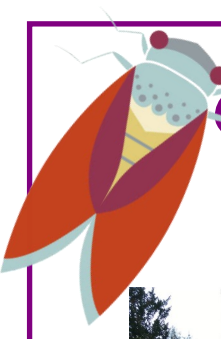
Ending Balance: \$15,641.47. He went into detail about the income and expenditures and asked residents to send any outstanding 2021 \$25 dues to him at 2126 Fernglen Way by Friday, April 30.

Election of Board Members: Wanda proposed the current board members and they were approved without any no votes or abstentions. She asked for self-nominations by other residents. Deborah Cason and Tanya Deshields introduced themselves and they were unanimously accepted. Klaus mentioned that the newly constituted board will elect officers at the next board meeting in May.

Open Forum: In response to a question about the architectural committee Klaus described its application, review and recommendation functions concerning significant changes. In response to a resident's complaint about overflows due to a clogged stormwater drain rear behind their property, John H. said that he would provide the County contact number for that. In response to a resident's observation about foxes appearing in the daytime, another resident recommended calling 311 for the County's wildlife management agency. In response to a resident inquiring about having a phone directory, John F. said that that board would discuss that possibility at its next meeting. He also noted the passing of board member Joe Reid last year.

Presentation by Dorcas Baker, Regional Coordinator of the REACH Initiative at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing: She gave an extensive talk on COVID-19 and Vaccines using a PowerPoint presentation.

After the committee reports, the meeting was adjourned. Thanks to all residents that attended our Zoom meeting!

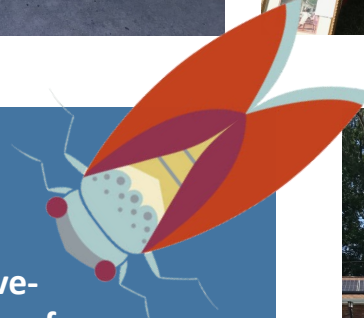


Yard Sale Day!



Cicadas for sale?

On June 5th, Lots of residents braved the cicadas to sell their wares from yards and drive-ways. From art to superheroes, truly something for everyone. There was a good flow of traffic from treasure hunters in and out of the neighborhood. I met 2 gals, who scored big, with free bikes for their tiny tots! The roar of the cicadas was deafening as they bounced off or sometimes sat on our clothes. Maybe a few rode home with the shoppers. No extra charge. PJ



CELESTIAL SIGHTS

By Fred Hickok, Professor Emeritus of Astronomy,
Community College of Baltimore County

September 14 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest eastern elongation of 26.8 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

October 29 - Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation of 47 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Venus since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the bright planet in the western sky after sunset.

November 19 - Partial Lunar Eclipse. A partial lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or penumbra, and only a portion of it passes through the darkest shadow, or umbra. During this type of eclipse a part of the Moon will darken as it moves through the Earth's shadow. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of eastern Russia, Japan, the Pacific Ocean, North America, Mexico, Central America, and parts of western South America.

Sources: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2021.html>

Special Committee Report on the SWALE

The SWALE (County land between Fernglen and the Woodbridge Valley Neighborhood) Members: J Herron, R. Mahmoodi, L. Marroulis, S Marroulis

In the Spring (before the Cicadas), we met with T Krispen from Baltimore Co about the amount of water run-off affecting homes on the lower end of the SWALE on Fernglen/Cedar Cir. We are hoping his dept which has responsibility for the SWALE will provide some work to improve waterflow to the drain and away from the residential properties. No confirmation yet. The initial response was helpful as they cleared the drain at the Cedar Cir site.

As you know the neighborhood has recently been visited for the *cinco años anuales* tree trimming by BGE. Their contractor only trims near their power lines. In some cases, they take down the whole tree. Power lines run along the SWALE. The committee would like to know if any whole trees were taken down this year. (N.B. The contractor is required to remove any trimming less than 8" in diameter. The only cut up large sections and stack on residents' property). We plan a walk thru to assess the effect on the SWALE and will report later. (for information, contact J Herron)

Later this summer, post cicadas and oak mites, and after the temperature cools, we will plan a community walk thru in the SWALE for trash and debris. Look for an announcement on NEXTDOOR. Hope you will join us.

Your Public Library Can Help You Do a Million Things!

By Sue Vazakas, JHU Librarian

Our public library in Catonsville is one of 19 branches of the Baltimore County Public Library system (BCPL). The address is 1100 Frederick Rd., full services have resumed. During COVID closures, Interim Branch Manager Brian Wickham said, "Our branch has had over 19,000 curbside customers including over 400 who used our curbside printing service." "Also, there are no more late fees! And if you did have any, they've been removed from your account."

Mr. Wickham also shared, "We started hosting outdoor story time programs in July, and one of the most exciting things for staff has been seeing the babies we had attending over a year ago coming in as toddlers now"... "One of our librarians was greeted by cheers -- she was the last to present a story time before we closed, and our returning customers were excited to have her as their first host back to the program."

What are the things that the library, and its kind and talented librarians, can help me do?

- Print, copy, or scan
- Download & print federal/Maryland tax forms Manage your account from anywhere with the BCPL app; just download it from wherever you get your apps.
- Use many available public computers, WiFi, & databases.
- 3D printing (should start again this Fall)
- For your **NEW** dog or cat 4 four months or older, apply in person for a Baltimore County animal license. (Renewal licenses and replacement tags are available by only by mail or online.)
- Use assistive technology and services, including magnifying glasses; screen readers; text-to-speech software; large print books and picture books in Braille; audiobooks; and a Q&A service for people with a visual impairment.

What about ebooks?

Would you like to learn how to get and read ebooks, use BCPL free phone apps, or even learn Microsoft office? Good news! All branches offer 60-minute individual technology assistance, including phone or video options if you need them. (Don't forget that on ebooks you can make the font BIGGER.)

To schedule a **My Librarian** session, either call the branch or use the form on the website: <https://www.bcpl.info/services/ask-a-librarian.html> (scroll down to "Schedule a My Librarian Appointment")

This all sounds great! How do I get started? Get a library card.

In Person: For a permanent card with full library privileges, visit the Service Desk at any branch & bring photo ID.

Online: For an e-card with limited privileges, register online at <https://tinyurl.com/4akzu426>. An e-card lets you place holds on materials, and use online databases and other online resources such as OverDrive and CloudLibrary (for ebooks) and Kanopy & Hoopla (for films/TV).

(NOTE: Some of this text was taken from the library's web site at <https://www.bcpl.info/locations/catonsville>)

2021
Westerlee Community Assoc.

Neighborhood Get-Together

SEPTEMBER 18, FROM 3 TO 5
RAIN: SEPT 25

**Box Lunch & Treats to Enjoy
Here or at Home.**

MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING ENCOURAGED

PHILIPSENS YARD, 2018 CEDAR CIRCLE DR.

Over for More Events





Dumpster Day

October 30th 8am-12noon

Saturday October 30th Baltimore County Dept. of Solid Waste will supply Westerlee with a roll-off dumpster. The dumpster will be located on Nuwood Drive, where it dead-ends by Cedar Circle from 8am-12pm.

Masks must be worn on site!

Additionally, Fred Hickok, board secretary, volunteered to use his pickup for paint cans and electronics disposal. Please be sure to keep these separated from the other items you are bringing.

Community volunteers will be on site to assist and answer questions.

Most household trash is acceptable as long as it is *not* normal recyclables or caustic.

Community Clean-Up Program Disposal Regulations

- The following items are prohibited from disposal and will not be accepted at Landfill:
- Acids, caustics, pesticides, chemicals
- Drums or tanks (unless clean and cut in half)
- Explosive or flammable materials
- Large stumps
- Liquids or liquid waste
- Medical or radioactive waste
- Wood or logs greater than eight inches in diameter and six feet in length
- Most large items that cannot be lifted manually
- Tires
- Appliances with freon (Fridge, a/c units etc...)
- Batteries and anti-freeze



Electronics:

- Audio equipment
- Cables, cords and communication wires
- Central Processing Units (CPUs), laptops and servers
- Computer accessories and peripherals (including mice, keyboards, power supplies, scanners and printers)
- Computer parts (including circuit boards, chips, cards and hard drives)
- Music playing devices
- "Smart watches" and fitness trackers
- Tablets and e-readers

Please note: Computer monitors and TVs are now considered trash.

FYI: The Department of Solid Waste has a great on-line resource called **The Reuse Directory**, that has lists of places to take almost anything you are trying to get rid of from baby items and office supplies to garden equipment and linens.

34 Gallon Rolling Recycle Can



Westerlee Residents Only

RSVP by September 10

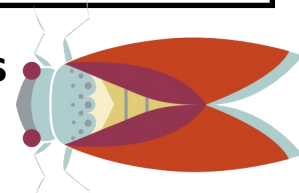
Back by Popular Demand!

By John Fox

Two years ago, your Westerlee Board offered an opportunity for residents to get a **34-gallon rolling recycling can for just \$20**. This program was wildly popular and since then, recycle cans continue to be requested. So, back by popular demand, we will be putting in another order.

You pay \$20 we will cover the rest. (At local stores cans cost up to \$90) Please contact John Fox (westerleehoa@gmail.com) by September 10, 2021. These will be available for pickup at the Westerlee Get-Together on September 18th.

FYI: Only 16.75 years before the next Cicada invasion:)



Westerlee HOA Dues

Its Never Too Late to Pay

The Westerlee Homeowners Association strives to keep our wonderful neighborhood the best it can be. These are just a few examples of what dues do:

- Keep on top of the local development news that may impact our quiet neighborhood and routinely communicate with local officials on our behalf.
- Organize annual events such as the yard sale day, dumpster day, annual meeting, holiday light contest and our upcoming picnic.
- Support of this community newsletter and website.

It's never too late to catch up on paying your Westerlee Community Association dues. If you have not paid for 2021, \$25 plus \$15 late fee to our Treasurer Rizwan Mahmoodi at 2126 Fernglan Way.

Over for More Events